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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I oppose the settlement. Microsoft has proven to be a monopolistic predator. From Netscape to Java to countless other examples, Microsoft has used its dominate position in the PC desktop OS market to bully competitors or even drive them out of business. The justice department, at the tax payer's great expense, prevailed and demonstrated Microsoft to have violated the law. This settlement renders all of that effort futile and teaches Microsoft the valuable lesson that you can violate the law, but if you fight like hell in the courts you can get away with it. This will only encourage Microsoft to continue its illegal behavior (to this day, Microsoft contends they did nothing wrong). To teach Microsoft a lesson, to deter future criminal conduct, to make Microsoft a good corporate citizen, to foster free competition, and to benefit the consumers, it is imperative that the settlement be rejected and more drastic remedies be sought.

The problem is Microsoft's dominance in the OS market. This gives Microsoft the power, which they are too at ease with using, to dominate every other aspect of computing. Control over the OS leads to control over office suites, which leads to control over web browsers, which leads to control over internet access and content. This domino effect will never end until Microsoft's OS division is made a separate company from its software and internet divisions. That is the remedy that I suggest.